(c) and (d) The distribution of funds for maintenance of National Highways including Ahmedabad-Bombay section of National Highway No. 8 is made by the States out of the allocations indicated above keeping in view the actual requirements.

Steps to improve the functioning of the Calcutta port

854. SHRI DEBABRATA BISWAS: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the navigational conditions between Calcutta Port and Haldia Port are deteriorating fast;

(b) if so, what specific steps have so far been taken to improve the navigational conditions between Calcutta and Haldia; and

(c) what other steps have so far been taken to improve the general functioning of the Calcutta Port to make it competitive with other Ports like Bombay and Madras?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) River Training Works like guidewall, Groynes etc. have been executed and regular maintenance dredging is being undertaken to improve the navigational conditions between Calcutta and Haldia.

(c) A number of schemes for the replacement of old assets like floating crafts handling equipments etc. and for modernisation and augmentation of existing facilities have been included in the 8th Plan to improve the general functioning of the Calcutta Port.

Extra payment made by Shipping Corporation of India

855. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the Economic Times dated 14th June, 1993 captioned "Shipping Corporation of India to pay Dollar 20 million more than market rates for four tankers";

(b) whether any delegation of officials visited South Korea to talk to the concerned shipyards;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Minister also met the Shipyard officials;

(d) if so, what are the details of discussions;

(e) whether an enquiry will be ordered into this huge foreign exchange loss of Shipping Corporation of India; and

(f) whethre it will be possible to negotiate a downward revision of the prices of there ships.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) No, Sir. However, Minister of State for Transport alongwith some officials visited South Korea for other purposes which were not connected with the construction of four tankers.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Minister met shipyard personnel in connection with the proposed collaboration arrangement with the Indian Shipyards.

(e) No, Sir. The Shipping Corporation of India placing orders for the construction of four tankers at the rate of US $ 65.53 Million per vessel was quite in order. Government has, therefore, not considered it necessary to hold any enquiry in the matter.

(f) No, Sir.

Steps to reduce road accidents in Delhi

856. SHRI MAHENDER PRASAD: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the spurt in road accidents in the capital since the

introduction of the Red-line and white-blue line buses, Government have taken any firm steps to discipline this fleet while increasing their efficiency; if so, what are the details thereof; and

(b) whether speed Governors and improvement in design of the buses have been or are being introduced if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) It is not a fact that there is a spurt in road accidents in the Capital since the introduction of the Red-line and White-blue line buses. In fact there has been a reduction of fatalities in the road accidents in the Capital. The number of fatalities till 30th November, 1993 was 1252 as against 1675 during the preceding year. However to keep the number of accidents at the minimum the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi as well as Delhi Police have taken a number of steps. The steps taken by them are indicated in the Statement *enclosed*. (*See* below).

(b) 3308 private buses plying in Delhi under various schemes of State Transport Authority, Delhi, are fitted with speed Governors. As regards improvement in the design of the public bus service vehicles, the same is under active consideration of the ASRTO and the Govt. of India.

Statement

Steps taken/being taken to reduce accidents in Delhi

The following steps have been taken by STA, Delhi and Delhi Police to reduce the accidents.

1. Refresher Courses for the drivers of the public service buses were started in November 1992. The drivers of the buses were subjected to proficiency test. 1080 drivers have been given refresher courses/passed proficiency test at Govt. Motor Driving Training School of Transport Department till August, 1993

2. The Transport Department, Del has set up a complaint cell and 1 permits of buses including 82 p mits of Red Line buses were s pended/cancelled between the peri April, 1993 to November, 19 which were involved in road ac dents. In addition, 17 permits of R Line buses were suspended/cancel on account of complaints for not f lowing the time schedule and ro violation including misbehaviour addition to discipline the drive Delhi Traffic Police, prosecu 65972 Red Line bus drivers various offences from 1.1.1993 30.10.1993. 22,000 prosecuti were made by the Transport Depa ment upto August, 1993 against R Line buses. 2982 cases of ov speeding of Red Line buses w impounded during 1.10.92 31.8.1993.

3. Measures have also been taken Transport Department to ens strict compliance of provisions Motor Vehicle Act with regard issue of driving licences as well fitness of the vehicles.

The Delhi Police have also taken lowing steps to check the accidents.

(i) Strict and rigid enforcement traffic rules and regulations.

(ii) Organising special drives ag rash and negligent driving, dri without licence, drunken driving red light jumping etc.

(iii) Regular prosecution of viol by issue of notice.

(iv) Introduction of traffic sig Blinkers in accident prone area.

(v) Deployment of mor traffic licemen in accident prone area.

(vi) Special mobile checking National Highways.

(vii) Prosecution through most dern equipment i.e. Alcometer Radar Gun.